

CLAIMS:

1. A drum brake assembly comprising:
 - a rotatable drum having a radially extending inner drum braking surface;
 - a brake shoe of single piece construction and of generally circular loop form mounted within said rotatable drum, said brake shoe having a radially outer face, at least one flange and two separate and opposed ends;
 - a backing plate against which said brake shoe is mounted;
 - a friction lining mounted to said outer face in facing relationship to said radially inner drum braking surface;
 - an actuator positioned between said ends and adapted to enlarge the separation between said ends to thereby cause radial expansion of said brake shoe from an inoperative brake off condition, in which there is clearance between said friction lining and said drum braking surface, to an operative brake on condition, in which said friction lining engages said drum braking surface;
 - an elongate web having a radially outer face which is adapted to form said radially outer face of said brake shoe, wherein said brake shoe flange co-extends with said elongate web and projects radially inward from said elongate web;
 - a positioning arrangement for positioning said brake shoe within said rotatable drum in the inoperative condition against lateral movement into engagement with said rotatable drum braking surface, to provide for complete clearance between said friction lining and said drum braking surface in the inoperative condition, said positioning arrangement including an engagement member associated with one of said brake shoe flange and said backing plate, for engagement with an abutment arrangement associated with the other of said

brake shoe flange and said backing plate; said abutment arrangement including a radially inner abutment and a radially outer abutment, wherein said engagement member is arranged for engagement with said radially inner abutment in the inoperative condition of the drum brake assembly to position said friction lining away from said drum braking surface, wherein said engagement member is arranged for engagement with said radially outer abutment when said brake shoe is radially expanded from the inoperative condition through a set running clearance between said friction lining and said drum braking surface to the operative condition of the drum brake assembly, one of said engagement member and said abutment arrangement being formed as a displaceable member which is displaceable radially relative to said brake shoe flange or said backing plate with which it is associated for the purpose of maintaining the set running clearance between said friction lining and said drum braking surface upon lining wear; and a biasing arrangement for facilitating engagement between said engagement member and said abutment arrangement in the inoperative condition by biasing said brake shoe to return to the inoperative condition.

2. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said biasing arrangement is formed at least in part, by the construction of said brake shoe, and where said brake shoe is constructed to resiliently distort during radial expansion under brake actuation and to radially contract under brake release.

3. The drum brake assembly according to claim 2, wherein said biasing arrangement further includes a spring.

4. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said positioning arrangement provides for engagement

between said engagement member and said abutment arrangement at two or more positions or regions about said brake shoe.

5. The drum brake assembly according to claim 4, wherein said two engagement positions between said engagement member and said abutment member are spaced symmetrically about a centre-line of said brake shoe which extends between said opposed ends of said brake shoe and through the centre of said brake shoe.

6. The drum brake assembly according to claim 5, wherein said two engagement positions are spaced apart in said region between 30° - 60° on either side of said centre-line.

7. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said displaceable member comprises a spring clip fitted to one of said backing plate and said brake shoe flange and is secured thereto under spring load.

8. The drum brake assembly according to claim 7, wherein said backing plate includes an opening for receipt of said spring clip, and said spring clip is arranged in said opening to engage opposite sides of said backing plate.

9. The drum brake assembly according to claim 7, wherein said backing plate includes a mounting facility extending therefrom for mounting said spring clip.

10. The drum brake assembly according to claim 7, wherein said spring clip is arranged to engage opposite sides of said brake shoe flange.

11. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said engagement member includes a projection for abutting engagement with said abutment arrangement.

12. The drum brake assembly according to claim 11, wherein said engagement member is formed as said displaceable member, and wherein said projection is part of a mounting section of said displaceable member which facilitates mounting of said displaceable member to one of said backing plate and said brake shoe flange.

13. The drum brake assembly according to claim 11, wherein said projection is formed to project from one of said backing plate and said brake shoe flange.

14. The drum brake assembly according to claim 11, wherein said projection is circular and has an axis disposed substantially perpendicular to a plane of said brake shoe flange or said backing plate which it is associated, and wherein said projection is arranged for engagement with said abutment arrangement at each of two diametrically opposite circumferential positions of its outer circular periphery.

15. The drum brake assembly according to claim 11, wherein said projection has a "fish back," oval, elliptical, square or rectangular configuration.

16. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said abutment arrangement is a circular opening defining an internal circular surface periphery, wherein said engagement member engages said abutment arrangement against diametrically opposite positions of said internal surface periphery.

17. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said abutment arrangement is a circumferential or tangential groove opening or slot opening which defines opposed faces for engagement by said engagement member, and which permits circumferential movement of said brake shoe.

18. The drum brake assembly according to claims 16 and 17, wherein said opening is disposed within said flange or said backing plate.

19. The drum brake assembly according to claims 16 and 17, wherein said opening is disposed within a separate component part fixed to said flange or said backing plate.

20. The drum brake assembly according to claim 19, wherein said component part is fixed to said flange or said backing plate as said displaceable member.

21. The drum brake assembly according to claim 1, wherein said brake shoe includes a pair of generally parallel flanges extending radially inwards from opposite side edges of said elongate web, wherein in use, a first of said pair of parallel flanges is disposed against or adjacent said backing plate and a second of said pair of parallel flanges is spaced axially away from said backing plate, wherein one of said engagement member and said abutment arrangement is associated with said first of said pair of parallel flanges and the other of said engagement member and said abutment arrangement is associated with said backing plate.